DISABLED PERSONS BULLETIN

No. 2/1990

PLANNING WITH A LONG-TERM VIEW

The validity and value of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons* as a guide for equalizing the opportunities of disabled persons was reaffirmed at the Meeting of Experts on Alternative Ways to Mark the End of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, held at Järvenpää, Finland, from 7 to 11 May 1990.

The Meeting proposed that higher visibility should be given to the Decade to promote action and to create a greater awareness of measures for the prevention of disability, for rehabilitation and the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons. More specifically, it called for the following priority measures to be targeted:

- Strengthening programmes for, and organizations of, disabled persons and providing them with support and resources to ensure the full participation of disabled persons in decision-making;
- Implementing of grass-root models of empowerment, such as multisectoral community-based rehabilitation programmes including independent living projects;
- Promoting of legislation to enable disabled persons to exercise fully their human rights.

*Adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/52 and contained in A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).

A long-term view is needed when preparing a future for all. (Photo: I. Valdez)

Achievements of the Decade

In opening the Meeting, the Director of the Social Development Division, the United Nations Office at Vienna/Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (UNOV/CSDHA) outlined the achievements and shortcomings of the Decade. Tracing the continuity of efforts in the field of disability from the success of the International Year of Disabled Persons in 1981, he observed that sustaining the momentum of the Year into the

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Decade had been difficult. At the mid-point of the Decade, a meeting of experts, convened by the United Nations at Stockholm in 1987, had identified the major obstacles to implementing the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons. The Decade had been proclaimed as a long-term plan of action, on the understanding that no additional resources would be needed from the United Nations system. The United Nations were expected to reconcile the high expectations attached to many additional activities and projects with a lack of additional resources. He said that there had been definite achievements nevertheless.

Preparing for challenges

The approach to disability issues in the 1980s was described by the Director as a revolutionary evolution. The World Programme of Action had served as the basic philosophy to conceptualize the role of human beings as purpose-oriented agents and had challenged outdated passive and incapacitating approaches to disability. Any future strategy would have to respond to a number of challenges including, for example, the increasing number of people with functional limitations, the consequences of the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), the aging of populations, and *laissez-faire* attitudes, which were bound to affect social policies and programmes in the field of disability.

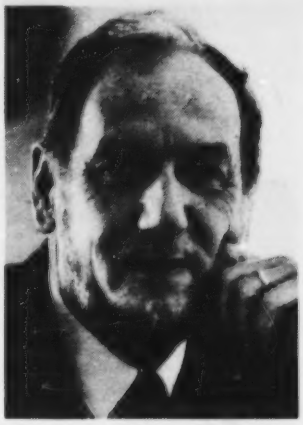
Mr. Michel Gillibert: Proposing a strategy for a step-by-step approach. (Photo: CSDHA)

Co-ordination and networking

The participants repeatedly emphasized that the success of the Decade depended on there being a strong network of national organizations. The United Nations Office at Vienna and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) were asked to invite UNDP resident representatives to set up one-day national seminars in collaboration with Governments for the purpose of establishing immediately and/or strengthening national disability committees. Such seminars could also involve representatives of international non-governmental organizations and national professional organizations. The committees would be required to collaborate with all concerned on action to mark the end of the Decade and to formulate long-term national plans of action. One expert proposed the setting up of an executive mechanism similar to that of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees or a United Nations task force on disability, such as that on child survival, thus making it possible for United Nations bodies and specialized agencies to formulate an agenda for action within their mandates. It was proposed that there should be an annual evaluation of national activities and the progress achieved. Strong support for the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons and for the strengthening of the Disabled Persons Unit, UNOV/CSDHA, was expressed.

Comprehensive policies

The Secretary of State responsible for disabled persons, France, Michel Gillibert, observed that the results of the Decade had been rather disappointing and said that, in order to be effective, the remainder of the Decade had to be approached through a firm and clear analysis. Comprehensive disability policies to deal with all aspects of a disabled person's daily life, which would encompass in a co-ordinated and coherent way



Mr Bengt Lindqvist: Requesting an international legal instrument on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons. (Photo: CSDHA)

everything from the prevention of impairment to legislation, education, training, vocational integration and accessibility, as well as cultural, leisure and sport activities, were imperative. They would ensure the integration of a disabled person into society as a citizen with full rights.

Review of terminology

The Secretary of State proposed further the introduction of a new concept and new terminology in the field of disability, including the replacement of the term "handicap" in French with that of "acquired accidental disability" *(accidenté de la vie)*. He drew attention to the arbitrary way in which disability resulting from an accident or a disease, or occurring at birth, was being defined. He proposed a strategy based on a step-by-step approach, whereby only a few priorities at a time would be drawn from the World Programme of Action for urgent action. Because many countries had interesting and successful experiences from which lessons could be drawn, he proposed that all interested countries should be invited to participate in an exchange of information before the end of the Decade and to report on their efforts aimed at setting up comprehensive national rehabilitation policies or at achieving some of the main objectives of the World Programme. He

FINLAND MEETING

announced that France had taken the initiative to convene in Paris, in the autumn of 1991, the first conference of ministers responsible for disabled people to be organized by the Council of Europe. The theme of the conference would be "Independent living".

International legal instrument

The Minister for Family Affairs and Matters concerning the Elderly and Disabled, Sweden, Bengt Lindqvist, told the participants that the Swedish Government had decided to reopen the question of an international legal instrument on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons. Sweden had fully recognized the equal rights and obligations of disabled citizens, and that social, cultural and economic barriers had to be eliminated and national policies developed.

Although the original proposal had been for a convention on the rights of disabled persons, that proposal had apparently not had enough support. Nearly all countries had expressed their willingness, however, to support some kind of international legal instrument in the disability field.

Long-term view needed

A preliminary outline of a long-term strategy to implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons to the year 2000 and beyond* was introduced by a representative of the Secretariat. A long-term strategy was needed to initiate and re-enforce those processes in communities that would direct development towards the main goal of achieving full integration and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities and to strengthen the successful and promising developments initiated during the Decade. The participants concluded that such a strategy might be prepared by a ministerial-level world conference to be held in 1993.

Furthermore, the objectives of the World Programme of Action should be translated into concrete operational targets, to be reached within a specified time frame, that would lend themselves to better monitoring. It was considered vital not only to analyse the weaknesses of past and current approaches, but also to make a realistic forecast of probable future trends, including both obstacles to be overcome and opportunities to be used.

The major challenge would be to transform the positive awareness created during the Decade into action towards "a society for all by the year 2010" that would enable and empower persons with disabilities, as well as other members of society, to use their full potential.

Broader focus

A number of speakers from non-governmental organizations emphasized that the World Programme of Action reaffirmed the rights of disabled people as laid down in human rights instruments of the United Nations. While the World Programme of Action provided the basic guidelines, there was still a need to reinterpret it in the light of recent developments, especially technological changes, advances in preventive medicine and changes in the international ideological climate. A new and broader understanding of disability was needed to replace the group-specific approach; disability would have to be considered in connection with related issues, such as aging, environmental degradation, drug abuse and civil unrest.

The findings of the Meeting served as a basis for the report of the Secretary-General (A/45/470), which was submitted to the General Assembly for consideration at its forty-fifth session.

Copies of the report of the Meeting may be obtained from: UNOV/CSDHA, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria. ■

*See "Feasibility study on alternative ways to mark the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons: report of the Secretary-General" (A/45/470), paras. 77-92.

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READEX FICHE

WOMEN AND DISABILITY

Disabled women experience most of the same problems and lack of opportunities as disabled men; however, there are differences in their status, compared with that of disabled men. Disability and gender interact and result in intolerable situations for disabled women: they experience discrimination because of both their sex and their disability.

The nature and the extent of this double discrimination was the main topic of a Seminar on Disabled Women, which was organized on the initiative of the Division for the Advancement of Women in collaboration with the Disabled Persons Unit, UNOV/CSDHA, and the Standing Women's Committee of DPI, and held at Vienna from 20 to 24 August 1990. The Seminar was the first meeting to be convened specifically to consider the problems of disabled women, including their contribution to development.

The Seminar provided a unique opportunity for discussing the attitudinal changes, the laws and regulations, and the research, statistical data and policies that were required to improve the status of disabled women in the interest of women, disabled persons and society as a whole.

Analysis of the problem

The participants found that the factual basis and statistical coverage for analysis was not strong, since most studies on disability did not segregate data by gender. Nor was the quantitative description of the actual situation of disabled persons complete. Based on the case-studies prepared for the Seminar, it appears that the current trend of incorporating women into the labour force, as well as the aging of populations, will have an impact on disability and on the increase in the number of disabled women in different age groups. The few developing country studies show that girls, women and young children are particularly at risk of neglect among the groups of disabled persons in need of help. When rehabilitation and training resources are limited, disabled boys are more likely to be the beneficiaries than disabled girls. In many African and Asian countries, for instance, blind women have a lower status than blind men.

Areas of particular vulnerability

Owing to their critical role in ensuring that girls and women with disabilities achieve social integration, participation and equalization of opportunities, such factors as rehabilitation, education, vocational training, health, nutrition and transport need a high priority in disability programmes. If properly handled, they could contribute to reducing the vulnerability of disabled women and girls and thus promote their independence.

Rights versus charity

The Seminar affirmed that disabled women were beginning to speak up about their experiences, their capabilities and their goals. Issues related to women with disabilities are essentially a subset of issues related to disability rather than a part of issues related to women in general. Some women with disabilities wish to be considered as part of the advocacy movement started by people with disabilities, while others feel that disabled women need to be part of both women's organizations and disabled persons' organizations. Whichever path is chosen, it is clear that a movement of women with disabilities is emerging.

The participants affirmed that the proclamation of the International Year of Disabled Persons (1981) and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons have proven to be important tools in enabling disabled women, often for the first time, to discuss the injustice that disabled persons, but specifically disabled women and girls, face throughout their lives. They have begun to articulate their needs and to demand the assistance that can enable them to become equal members of society. The inclusion of disabled women in discussions and solutions regarding their problems will have a more positive impact on their lives.

The Seminar was attended by women from both developing and developed countries. ■

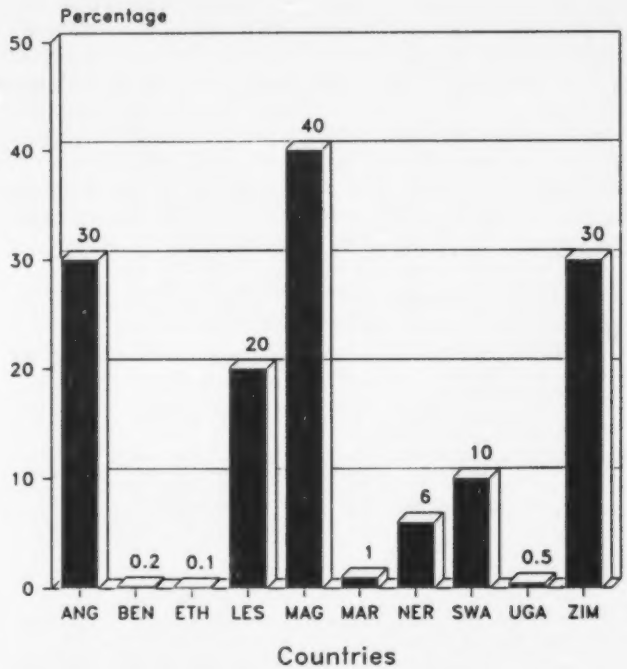
Seminar on Women and Disability: discussing policies required to improve the status of disabled women.

TO THINK ABOUT: DEAF CHILDREN'S ENROLMENT RATES AT PRIMARY-SCHOOL LEVEL IN DIFFERENT REGIONS OF THE WORLD

Key:

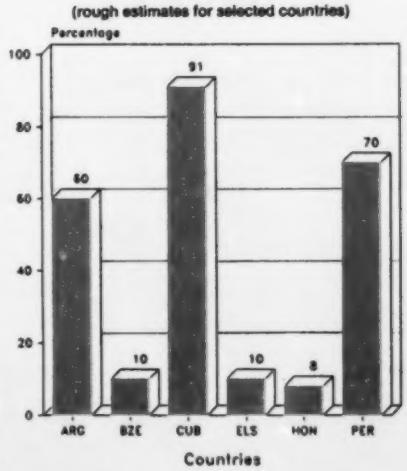
ANG: Angola
ARG: Argentina
BZE: Belize
BEN: Benin
CUB: Cuba
ELS: El Salvador
ETH: Ethiopia
HON: Honduras
IND: India
LES: Lesotho
MAG: Madagascar
MAR: Mauritius
NEP: Nepal
NER: Niger
PAK: Pakistan
PER: Peru
PHI: Philippines
SIN: Singapore
SRI: Sri Lanka
SWA: Swaziland
UGA: Uganda
ZIM: Zimbabwe

Deaf children's enrolment rate at primary-school level, Africa
(rough estimates for selected countries)



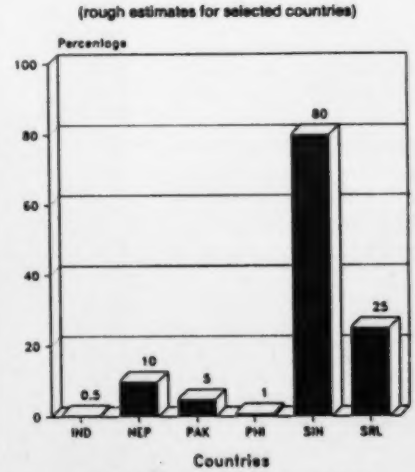
Source: World Federation of the Deaf (1990).

Deaf children's enrolment rate at primary-school level, Latin America and the Caribbean
(rough estimates for selected countries)



Source: World Federation of the Deaf (1990).

Deaf children's enrolment rate at primary-school level, Asia and the Pacific
(rough estimates for selected countries)



Source: World Federation of the Deaf (1990).

Brazil

Self-help as a force

Brazil has an active, widespread and effective disability rights movement that has come a long way since 1970. Although many institutions still exist to serve disabled persons, a major emphasis is now being placed on community participation, empowerment and self-help approaches aimed at integrating disabled persons into economic and social life.

One such development was the founding in Rio de Janeiro in December 1988 of the Centre for Independent Living (CVI) to assist and inform disabled persons about the best possible ways of using their resources for full independence and of living a productive life. The main objective of CVI, which is the first non-profit organization of its kind in Brazil, is to offer direct or indirect services for the enhanced social integration of disabled persons. These services are carried out by professionals, most of whom are disabled, with considerable experience in this area of work.

The work of CVI focuses on areas such as independent living, development of human and scientific resources, legal and architectural consultancies, personal attendants, training courses, job placement and information exchange. CVI maintains a comprehensive library on disability, which will later be transformed into a data base for community use. CVI has also started cross-cultural exchange programmes under the sponsorship of International Business Machines, Corp. (IBM) Brazil.

Further information may be obtained from: Rosangela Berman Bieler, Centre for Independent Living, Rua Dep. Soares Filho, 511 Maracaña, Rio de Janeiro, RJ-CEP 20540, Brazil.

India

Following a high-tech approach

Preparations are being made to establish within the Institute of Science at Nagpur, India, a computer communication centre for disabled persons.

The project, which was initiated by a couple of disabled scientists and is supported by the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons and the Government of India, will train visually, hearing and physically impaired persons in the use of personal computers at basic and advanced levels. As the objective is to prepare disabled persons for possible future employment in this field, designing and organizing job-placement programmes will be an integral part of the project. Later, the trainees will be encouraged to develop computer communication systems for hearing and visually impaired persons, as well as to help set up computer-aided diagnosis for medical and psychological assistance.

Further information may be obtained from: Institute of Science, Nagpur 440 001, India.

Japan

Himawari project: Delegates of peace

Thanks to improved access for disabled people to buildings and transport systems, wheelchair-users and blind, deaf and mentally disabled persons were able to travel as delegates of peace on an arranged tour called Himawari from Japan to New York and several other cities in the United States on an information exchange programme in August 1990. The delegates visited the United Nations Headquarters to present a message of peace to the Secretary-General, Javier Perez de Cuellar, in recognition of his efforts to promote peace. The message was received by Vasiliy S. Safronchuk, Under-Secretary-General, Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, on behalf of the Secretary-General.

Further information may be obtained from: Mr. T. Kishi, COM Tourcentre Incorporated, J & R Bldg., 7th floor, Udagawacho 33-10, Shibuyahu, Tokyo 150, Japan.

Voice rehabilitation

The Asian Federation of Laryngectomees' Associations (AFLA) held its latest international conference in Tokyo from 5 to 6 April 1990. Ten Asian associations participated. AFLA, which is co-financed by the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, provides technical assistance in oesophageal voice training to countries in the Asian region. As there are approximately 600,000 laryngectomees worldwide, of whom over 55 per cent live

The Guinreikai Voice Training Class (Photo: AFLA)

in Asia, instructors' training courses have been found to be essential in promoting the rehabilitation of laryngectomees and their reintegration into society. Recently, AFLA was awarded the Health and Culture Award of the DAI-Ichi Life Mutual Insurance Company. Japan.

Further information on the activities of AFLA may be obtained from: Shoji Nakamura, President, Asian Federation of Laryngectomees' Associations, Takara-Shigyo, Building 3-7-14, Idabashi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102, Japan.

Philippines

Equipping managers for community-based rehabilitation

A workshop for community-based rehabilitation (CBR) co-ordinators was held at Bagio City, the Philippines, in November 1989, as a joint activity of the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons and the World Health Organization (WHO). The Negros Occidental Rehabilitation Foundation, which has a CBR programme, was also a sponsor. The workshop provided training to 16 managers from non-governmental organizations in different regions in developing and implementing a three-year work plan of CBR programmes. As part of their field work, the participants interviewed disabled persons and their families as an exercise in the use of the *Manual on Training in the Community for People with Disabilities* produced by WHO.

(Source: Technical Information, National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons, 2nd Floor, Philsucen Annex Building, North Avenue, Dilemar, Quézon City, Philippines.)

Romania

First needs assessment mission completed

One way of handling problems in the field of disability is to establish close co-operation between the national authorities and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned. This is one of the recommendations of a mission report on disability and rehabilitation structures in Romania, which was released by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at Geneva in March 1990. The report provides, for the first time, a detailed insight into existing facilities and services for disabled persons, as well as the main problems and urgent requirements. The report not only evaluates treatment facilities for disabled persons, facilities for their social integration, social assistance and rehabilitation medicine in Romania, but it also provides statistical information on each of these sectors. Furthermore, the report analyses priority areas for possible projects to be undertaken urgently. It reveals that there has been no planning of an infrastructure or of human resources in the field of rehabilitation, while the number of disabled persons in Romania has steadily increased. It recommends that the first priority should be given to health planning, training of staff and redistribution of health facilities.

Further information may be obtained from: International Committee of the Red Cross, 17 avenue de la Paix, CH-1202 Geneva, Switzerland.

Somalia

Concern for orthopaedic and rehabilitation services

An Orthopaedic Workshop and Rehabilitation Centre at Mogadishu is producing technical aids and equipment and offering rehabilitation services mainly for disabled children with poliomyelitis, cerebral palsy, hydrocephalus, meningitis, mental retardation and fractures. Adults who use the facilities are often amputees, hemiplegics and paraplegics.

While the Centre is able to handle the most urgent needs, it lacks sufficient equipment, facilities and trained staff. Since 1989, it has been charging fees for orthopaedic aids and physiotherapy, but the fees do not cover the costs, and most of the users cannot afford them.

The Centre, which was set up in 1982 by the Somali Red Crescent and Norwegian Red Cross Societies, has appealed to rehabilitation institutes for orthopaedic materials and trained staff.

Further information may be obtained from: Somali National Council on Social Welfare, Golaha Qaranka Sannafalra Bulshada, Waddadda 11 Jannaayo, S.B. 1566, Somalia.

(Source: SAMAFAL News Letter, 2/2.)

United States of America

New act passed

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed by Congress and signed by President Bush on 26 July 1990. The new Act is a landmark on the way to the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons and contains comprehensive provisions for the sectors of employment, transportation, public accommodation and telecommunications.

Over two thirds of working-age American citizens with disabilities are unemployed, much of which stems from a lack of opportunities. The new Act will form the foundation for policies and programmes to create opportunities for Americans with disabilities to find and hold down jobs and to enjoy the income and satisfaction that productive participation in society brings to all. Detailed provisions are included to make the public transportation system and public accommodation accessible to disabled persons. The Act also covers individuals who have sucessfully completed a supervised drug rehabilitation programme, or have otherwise been rehabilitated successfully, and no longer use illegal drugs.

Further information may be obtained from: National Council on Disability, 800 Independence Avenue, SW, Suite 814, Washington, D.C. 20591, United States of America. ■

Disabled Peoples' International: Leadership training is vital

DPI held its Eighth Asia-Pacific Leadership Training Seminar entitled *From care to self-help: community-based approaches to equalization of opportunities* in Fiji, from 25 to 29 June 1990. The Seminar was part of a series of leadership training seminars that had been conducted in other regions for specific groups, all of which had proven to be quite successful. The Seminar focused on the needs of the South Pacific region, where people with disabilities are spread over vast and remote areas. Many of them are isolated and lack access to even the most basic social services. In addition, disability is still regarded in many communities as a cause for shame.

There is, therefore, an acute need for empowerment, through the acquisition of leadership skills, of people with disabilities and of their organizations.

The Seminar focused on providing such leadership skills, which are also needed for the provision of community-based services in the region. Thirty potential leaders in the disability field from 21 countries in the region covering Asia and the Pacific were trained in the concept of community-based approaches, the maximum utilization of community resources and the role of international organizations in the provision of community services.

Further information may be obtained from: Asia-Pacific Regional Council of Disabled Peoples' International, Room 210, Sangiin Kaikan, 2-1-1 Nagata-Cho Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100, Japan.

World Blind Union: International musical event suggested

While progress has been made in the compilation of data on social security provisions and other benefits for blind persons, only limited progress has been achieved in improving the status of the blind with additional disabilities and the elderly blind. This is also true of the development of community-awareness programmes and the strengthening of the regional unions of the World Blind Union (WBU).

These were the main conclusions of the Social Development Committee of WBU, which met at Onnela, Finland, from 20 to 23 August 1990, to review the implementation of its earlier recommendations adopted in 1987. In view of their importance and the slow progress that had been made, the recommendations were reiterated with few changes.

In order to give a sharper focus to the Decade and the awareness of the public, it was suggested that an international musical event should be staged, which should involve blind and other disabled musicians of international repute. Such an event, if organized under the auspices of the United Nations and as a joint effort of the organizations of, and for, disabled people, would provide an opportunity for drawing attention to the concerns of the disabled. Artists would be encouraged to compose music specifically for the occasion.

Any proposals and ideas may be forwarded to: Suresh C. Ahuja, Executive Director, National Association of the Blind, 11 Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan Road, Worli Seaface, Bombay, 400 025, India.

Global Project on the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons

A meeting of the Policy Control Board of the Global Project was held in New York on 15-16 October 1990. Included on the agenda was a proposal to launch an international awareness campaign.

Further information may be obtained from: Rachel Hurst, Global Project, Room 122, Hannibal House, Elephant and Castle, London SE1 6TE, United Kingdom, or OSR, UNOV/CSDHA, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria.

IFSD: Promoting sport under the motto "Help yourself"

A cadre of well-trained sports instructors for disabled persons is essential for promoting the integration of persons with disabilities into society. The International Fund Sports Disabled (IFSD) project, aimed at training sports instructors in developing countries, was the first of its type ever to promote the participation of disabled persons world wide in sport.

(Continued on page 14)

Disabled artists should be encouraged to develop their talents
(Photo: CSDHA)

ILO

International Labour Organisation

Vocational rehabilitation and women

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) recently completed an informal survey on female participation in vocational rehabilitation projects. The findings showed that disabled women do not yet benefit equally from development projects and that women with disabilities are usually not integrated into ongoing community development activities. For example, it was noted that only 21 per cent of the participants in nine projects were female. It was concluded that technical co-operation projects should pay particular attention to disabled women's needs and emphasize the positive role of women in the development of their communities and society. Furthermore, future ILO rehabilitation projects should aim at training equal numbers of women and men and should include training components to raise the awareness of planners and national decision makers.

The survey concluded further that while a strong women's component in all rehabilitation projects is of the utmost importance, there is still a need for activities focusing particularly on disabled women. Consequently, the ILO has initiated an African subregional project entitled "Improved livelihood for disabled women", promoting economic opportunities and improved living standards for disabled women in Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Further information may be obtained from: The International Labour Office, F/REHAB, 4 route des Morillons, CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland.

Teaching children with special needs in ordinary schools.
(Photo: Liliane Foundation)

UNESCO

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Examining teacher-training materials and special needs in the classroom

A demonstration workshop was held at the Department of Teacher Training Education at the University of Zimbabwe from 2 to 11 April 1990. The workshop was part of a project of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to develop and disseminate teacher-training packages on teaching children with special needs in ordinary schools. International teams from Canada, Chile, India, Jordan, Kenya, Malta, Spain and Zimbabwe participated.

The workshop developed a Teacher Education Resource Pack, consisting of modules and a guide for tutors, which will be tested in the field before being evaluated, revised and disseminated.

Further information may be obtained from: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Department of Special Education, 7 place de Fontenoy, B.P. 307, 75700 Paris, France.

UNIDO

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Is locally produced equipment cheaper and better?

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization(UNIDO) is jointly preparing with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Promotion of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons and the International Trade Centre a project to assist developing countries in conducting feasibility studies for the production and maintenance of technical aids for disabled persons.

Special attention will be given to the need for such aids in Africa, the Middle East and South-East Asia

through training courses and assistance in investment opportunities.

Further information may be obtained from: Paul Wiedemann, Interregional Adviser, Department of Industrial Operations, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 300, A-1400 Vienna, Austria.

WTO

World Tourism Organization

Assistance to tourists and travellers with disabilities

At a meeting of the Tourist Safety Committee of the World Tourism Organization, held at Madrid from 20 to 21 September 1990, a proposed code of conduct for the operational sector of tourism was presented.

The code of conduct provides advice and direction to all sectors of tourist travel services with respect to providing proper assistance and accessible facilities to travellers and tourists who have disabilities. The proposed code covers such areas as: tourist information and publicity, the sensitizing and training of staff, accommodation, transportation and equalized costs, catering services and other facilities.

ENHANCING ACCESSIBILITY

Accessible coinphones as a travel service of airports and stations are no luxury.
(Photo: CSDHA)

Further information may be obtained from the World Tourism Organization, Capitán Haya 42, 28020 Madrid, Spain. ■

(Photo: P. J. Bejer)

UNICEF

Early detection, disability prevention and rehabilitation

In its 1989 report on Childhood Disability, Prevention and Rehabilitation, UNICEF provides progress reports from various developing countries implementing early detection and special programmes, which are closely linked to overall development priorities. The report emphasizes a multi-sectoral approach and close collaboration between governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, communities and families in the detection and prevention of impairments and rehabilitation. For further information: UNICEF, 866 United Nations Plaza, New York, New York 10017, United States of America.

UNITED NATIONS AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The United Nations Testimonial Awards for 1990 were awarded to Dr. Harry Fang, an internationally renowned orthopaedic surgeon in Hong Kong; Michel Gillibert, Secretary of State responsible for disabled persons, France; the Liliane Foundation, Netherlands; the Ljubljana Rehabilitation Institute Service for Technical Co-operation Support, Yugoslavia; the National Council on Disability, United States, and for their unique activities to support United Nations efforts on behalf of disabled persons. Even before the International Year of Disabled Persons and the proclamation of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, these recipients had begun to support disabled persons in their own countries at the regional and international levels.

The awards for 1990 were first to be announced at the International Meeting on National Disability Committees at Beijing in November 1990. The innovative initiatives, programmes and world-wide academic and practical exchanges, as well as the continuing training and pioneering efforts of the recipients, make them committed and outstanding members of national and international communities.

Eighth Inter-Agency Meeting on the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons

The Eighth Inter-Agency Meeting on the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons was held at Vienna on 5-7 December 1990. The meeting discussed the disability programmes of participating United Nations bodies during the remainder of the Decade and strategies for the year 2000 and beyond, technologies in the field of disability, and disabled persons as victims of armed conflicts and civil unrest, as well as equal employment opportunities for disabled persons within the United Nations system. This inter-agency mechanism, which also includes participation by non-governmental organizations, has ensured continuing co-operation and liaison over policies and actions by the United Nations system for the implementation of the World Programme of Action during the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons.

More alike than different

The Department of Public Information, United Nations Secretariat, and the American Foundation for the Blind organized at United Nations Headquarters in New York in March 1990 a photographic exhibition on visually impaired children around the world. The exhibition, which focused more on the similarities between sighted and blind or visually impaired children, featured demonstrations of technologies, benefiting blind and visually impaired persons, including a Braille computer, software and "character enlargers" on video screens, as well as lap-top computers with synthetic speech and a portable reading machine capable of reading typewritten print and converting it into synthetic speech.

Standard rules on the equalization of opportunities

The question of an international legal instrument on the rights of disabled persons has been discussed on many occasions. There seems to be general agreement that there is still a lack of decisive and concerted measures to improve the situation of disabled persons effectively world wide. However, at its first regular session earlier in 1990, the Economic and Social Council considered the issue of standard rules in the disability field. In its resolution 1990/26 of 24 May 1990 it authorized the Commission for Social

Discussing the need to establish a national co-ordinating body in Chad

(Photo: CSDHA)

Development to consider, at its thirty-second session, the establishment of an *ad hoc* open-ended working group of government experts, funded by voluntary contributions, to elaborate standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled children, youth and adults, in close collaboration with the specialized agencies, other intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations, especially organizations of disabled persons themselves. Preparatory work has already started.

Programming missions to Benin and Chad

Joint programming missions of the United Nations Development Programme and UNOV/CSDHA were undertaken to Benin (15-26 October 1990) and Chad (17-26 June 1990) to assist the two Governments in structuring their national disability programmes. The members of the missions met with officials and representatives of non-governmental organizations.

In Benin, visits were made to the two ongoing community-based rehabilitation (CBR) programmes in Cotonou and Come. In the context of the new draft Constitution of Benin, the need for national disability legislation was discussed, as were existing legal texts restricting the rights of disabled persons. Collaboration between the Government, non-governmental organizations and UNOV/CSDHA will continue.

In Chad, the Government is currently restructuring its social development programme on a national scale and has a keen interest in strengthening and solidifying grass-root-level work through training and awareness creation. In addition, it is arranging for the establishment of a national co-ordinating mechanism, in which various government ministries and non-governmental organizations will participate, and for the setting up of training programmes for CBR and organizations of disabled persons.

Similar joint missions are planned for 1991 to Asia and Latin America.

Missions to Asia

In connection with the project of UNOV/CSDHA entitled "Integration of the needs and concerns of disabled persons into development planning", missions were recently undertaken to China, India, Thailand and the Philippines. Their purpose was to consult with government representatives and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on ways of improving the status of the integration of disabled persons into national planning mechanisms in the Asian region.

Fact-finding mission to Chernobyl

The United Nations Office at Vienna took part in a fact-finding mission in September 1990 to the area affected by the Chernobyl accident. The mission, which was primarily concerned with economic and social issues, was headed by Gerald Hinteregger, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe. Nine specialized agencies of the United Nations participated.

The mission did not find much evidence of special measures for the protection of disabled persons. While the Chernobyl accident itself had not produced any significant increase in the physically disabled population in general, the increase in the susceptibility to disease and accidents, among the elderly in particular, brought about by exposure to radiation, inadequate nutrition and a lack of rehabilitation equipment, had increased the incidences of disability in the region. Reference to the occurrence of socio-psychological problems was to be interpreted in many cases as referring to persons who, as a result of the accident, had been rendered socially disabled. Such people were in need of guidance and assistance in order to regain their place in society.

It was decided to attach the highest priority, especially in the fields of health care and nutrition, to the disabled population, as one of the most vulnerable groups of the population in the affected areas. Proposals were received from a number of agencies in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic for co-operative action for the care and protection of the disabled.

Office of the Special Representative

The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Promotion of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons has been appointed as the focal point within the United Nations Office at Vienna for the Global Project on the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons.

Joint initiatives with the International Trade Centre, aimed at encouraging and developing expanded trade and knowledge between developing countries, with respect to the production of wheelchairs, prosthetics, orthopaedic appliances, hearing aids and devices for blind persons are now being developed further.

In order to support viable projects unable to receive funding from the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, the Special Representative has continued his solicitation of financial support from other sources. A breakfast meeting, named "Appeal", to which permanent representatives based in Vienna were invited, was organized in close co-operation with the Disabled Persons Unit of UNOV/CSDHA. The meeting was successful in informing donor countries and other Member States of the need for more technical co-operation activities in developing countries. ■

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Appropriate Health Resources and Technologies Action Group, *Primary Health Care in Developing Countries: a Guide to Resources and Information in the UK* (London, 1989).

_____, *AHRTAG Resource List: Health Education on Diarrhoeal Diseases* (London, 1990). Both publications are available free of charge to individuals and organizations in developing countries from Appropriate Health Resources and Technologies Action Group, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9SG, United Kingdom.

Harry Bornstein, ed., *Manual Communication: Implications for Education* (Washington D.C., Gallaudet University Press, 1990). Offers the first authoritative examination of sign systems used in the education of deaf students, including the American Sign Language, Pidgin Sign (Contact Sign), Signed English, Signing Exact English and Cued Speech. Available from Gallaudet University Press, 800 Florida Avenue, NE, Washington, D.C. 20002, United States.

Ann Braden Johnson, *Out of Bedlam: The Truth About Deinstitutionalization.* (New York, Basic Books, 1990). Available from Basic Books, 10 East 53rd St., New York, N.Y. 10022, United States.

Alan B. Crammatte, *Meeting the Challenge: Hearing-Impaired Professionals in the Workplace* (Washington, D.C., Gallaudet University Press). Contrasts the growth and change in the status of deaf professionals, and includes data on over 1,700 professionals with a range of hearing impairments.

G. Creek and others, *Personal and Social Implications of Spinal Cord Injury: A Retrospective Study* (London, Thames Polytechnic, 1990). Available from the Spinal Injuries Association, Yeoman House, 76 St. James Lane, London N10 3DF, United Kingdom.

Gallaudet University, *Information package on the International Center on Deafness.* Brochures describing activities of the Center and the assistance that it offers. Available from: Elie Savanack, Director, International Center on Deafness, 800 Florida Ave, NE, Washington, D.C. 20002, United States.

_____, *Communicate with Me: Conversation Skills for Deaf Students.* Innovative curriculum providing insight and instruction for practical communication skills.

Jan C. Hafer and Robert M. Wilson, *Come Sign With Us: Sign Language Activities for Children* (Washington, D.C., Gallaudet University Press, 1990). Fully illustrated activity manual for teaching children sign language.

International Labour Organisation, *Major Hazard Control: A Practical Manual* (Geneva, 1990). Available in English and Spanish.

_____, "Social reintegration of persons having suffered mental illness". Report of an Asian Regional Workshop held by ILO in March 1989. Both publications are available from: International Labour Organisation, F/REHAB, 4 route des Morillons, CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland.

International Social Security Association, *Current Research in Social Security: Comparative Studies.* Compilation of research undertaken in the field of social welfare (Geneva, 1990). Available from the International Social Security Association, Case Postale 1, CH-1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland.

Donald F. Moores and Kathryn P. Meadow-Orlans, eds., *Educational and Developmental Aspects of Deafness* (Washington, D.C., Gallaudet University Press, 1990). Research-based reference book for further study of the education of deaf children.

H. Gustav Mueller and Virginia C. Geoffrey, eds., *Communication Disorders in Aging: Assessment and Management* (Washington, D.C., Gallaudet University Press).

National Clearing House of Rehabilitation Training Materials, *Newsletter* (January 1990). Lists materials available from the Clearing House. Available from the National Clearing House of Rehabilitation Training Materials, Oklahoma State University, 815 West 6th Street, Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078, United States.

National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, *Annual Report 1989* (January 1990). Available from the Library of Congress, Washington D.C. 20540, United States.

Rehabilitation International, *Ethical Issues in Disability and Rehabilitation.* Report of a conference cosponsored by Rehabilitation International, the World Institute on Disability and the World Rehabilitation Fund. Available from Rehabilitation International, 25 East 21st Street, N.Y. 10010, United States.

Harilyn Rousso, *Disabled, Female and Proud! Stories of Ten Women with Disabilities.* Exceptional Parents Press, 605 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass. 02215, United States.

Fatima Shah, *Disability, Self Help and Social Change* (1990). Collection of papers and keynote speeches presented by Dr. Shah at various national and international meetings on disability issues. Available from Dr. Fatima Shah, Bungalow 54, 12th Street, Phase V, Defence Housing Society, Karachi, Pakistan.

Rannveig Traustadottir, *Women with Disabilities: Issues, Resources, Connections* (Syracuse, Syracuse University, 1990). Information

package on the double discrimination of women with disabilities, including an overview article, an annotated bibliography, an annotated list of sources, teaching materials, services, support groups, organizations and periodicals. Available from the Center on Human Policy, Syracuse University, 200 Huntington Hall, 2nd floor, Syracuse, New York 13244-2340, United States.

(Continued from page 8)

From 1985 to 1989, with an initial capital of less than $US 0.5 million and the support of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, a small Team of Dutch medical and technical sports instructors conducted practical training workshops in five different parts of the world. Over 200 coaches and sports trainers, who are working with disabled persons in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, were trained. These instructors, all volunteers, were chosen from several organizations involved in sports for disabled persons. Based on needs analyses specific to each country, information packages, including audio-visual materials, were developed. Training manuals and instruction booklets in Arabic, English, French and Spanish were prepared. As part of a long-term policy, IFSD is promoting national sports organizations for disabled persons and encouraging follow-up support for coaches, administrators, and medical and paramedical personnel involved in promoting sport.

Further details may obtained from: International Fund Sports Disabled, Heijenoordsweg 5, 6813 GG Arnhem, Netherlands.

Rehabilitation International: IDEAS project data bases

Two data bases have been developed by Rehabilitation International under the auspices of the International Disability Exchanges and Studies (IDEAS) project.

The data bases provide not only important background material for researchers studying international disability issues, but also an inventory of information about disability work in other countries. They include information on international conferences on disability and rehabilitation topics (under "REHAB Meetings") and on literature in all the sectors relevant to disability issues and on contacts by country (under "Country Files").

Further information may be obtained from: World Institute on Disability, IDEAS project, 1720 Oregon Street, Suite 4, Berkeley, California 94703, United States.

World Congress of the International League of Societies for Persons with Mental Handicap: Turning rights into realities

The Tenth World Congress of ILSMH met in Paris from 5 to 10 August 1990. Taking as its theme "Turning rights into realities", the Congress focused on the practical application of the rights of mentally handicapped persons, which have long been declared, but are only rarely applied in a concrete way. Seminars therefore focused on such subjects as seeking work opportunities, normal housing, exercising citizenship, integrated education and public information.

The participants of the 15 African countries represented at the Congress took the opportunity of proclaiming the foundation of a Pan-African Federation of Associations for Mentally Handicapped Persons with the aim of promoting the well-being of mentally retarded persons in Africa. The first meeting of the Federation was scheduled to be held at Lagos from 10 to 13 December 1990.

The report of the World Congress may be obtained from: International League of Societies for Persons with Mental Handicap, Avenue Louise 248, B.P. 17, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium. ■

United Nations Office at Vienna, "Directory of national disability committees" (provisional list) (Vienna, August 1990).

_____, Provisional list of non-governmental organizations in the disability field" (Vienna, 1990). Both publications are available from the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Office at Vienna, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna.

United Nations Population Fund, *Investing in Women: The Focus of the '90s* (New York, 1990). Available from the United Nations Population Fund, 220 East 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10017, United States. ■

COMPUTER PROGRAMS

Screen Reader, an IBM computer program, which reads to the blind, is now also available in German. The program makes the personal computer read what is displayed on the screen, using an artificial voice, read single sentences and words and spell unknown expressions. With additional equipment, the PC also reads other printed materials to its blind users. Oesterreichische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Rehabilitation, Brigittenauer Lände 42, A-1200 Vienna, Austria.

Sign Friends, a computer program, designed to provide an interactive learning environment for those who wish to learn the basics of sign language. The shareware programme is available from Sign Friends, 79 Glammere Avenue, Florida, N.Y. 10921, United States. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Date	*Title/activity*	*Venue*	*Organization or contact*
11-16 November 1990	Fourth General Assembly, International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness	Nairobi, Kenya	World Blind Union, Secretariat, Calle La Coruqa 18, 28020 Madrid, Spain
12-14 November 1990	International Conference on Technology and Accessibility	Hoensbroek, Netherlands	Central Co-ordination Committee for the Promotion of Accessibility, P.O. Box 5406, 2280 HK Rijswijk, Netherlands
13-16 November 1990	European Conference on Braille	Madrid, Spain	European Blind Union, c/o World Blind Union, Secretariat, Calle La Coruqa 18, 28020 Madrid, Spain
28 March-2 April 1991	International Conference on Mental Retardation: the Way Ahead	Hong Kong	Hongkong Association for Scientific Study of Mental Handicap, Suites 388-389, 58 Blue Pool, Road Happy Valley, Hong Kong
26-29 May 1991	Science, Dignity, Opportunity (Fifth Canadian Congress of Rehabilitation)	Canada	Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled, Congress Secretariat, 45 Sheppard Avenue E, Suite 801, Toronto, Ontario M2N 5W9, Canada
August 1991	Third International Abilympics, 1991	Hong Kong	International Abilympics Secretariat 1st Floor, 57 Wyndham Street Central, Hong Kong
September 1992	Paralympic Games for Persons with Mental Handicap	Madrid	International Sports Federation for Persons with Mental Handicap, Secretariat, Box 207, S-B7124, Härnösand, Sweden

*Includes past and future meetings.

Although the costs are relatively high, new technologies and technical devices enable disabled women to increase their mobility, communication and participation, thus providing them more opportunities to be integrated.

Increasing attention, however, is also being given to the design of less expensive and more readily available devices.

EDITOR'S NOTE

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All information in the *Bulletin* may be copied, summarized or translated into any language without authorization, on condition that the source is acknowledged and a copy of the publication is sent to the Editor.

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this *Bulletin* do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations Secretariat concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The Editor welcomes news items from national disability committees, Governments and non-governmental organizations. Short articles and viewpoints on disability issues by disabled persons are also welcome. The Editor of the *Disabled Persons Bulletin* reserves the right to edit and publish manuscripts in line with the requirements of the publication.

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